

"Dad's much better," called out Ronald in his clear voice. He's going to be quite well to-night when the stars come out. He was not hurt half so bad as the partridges are, and I am sitting with him now and amusing him—aren't I amusing you, Daddy?"

Mrs. Benson's eyes were very red indeed, and she came up and tried to lift the child off the bed.

"Come away, Master Ronald. Oh, sir, how did you come in here?"

The trained nurse also came round to the other side of the bed.

"Now, Sir Ronald, surely you are wasting your strength."

"I am not going—I am not going," half screamed little Ronald.

"Let him stay," said the voice which was growing so sadly weak.

"I have something to say to the boy, and I want to be alone with him.—Let him stay."

The two women left the room and Ronald clapped his hands softly.

"Daddy, shall we both go for a ride to-morrow morning?"

Daddy stretched out his hand and clasped his fingers over Ronald's.

"Ronnie," he said, "you and I have often talked about mother!"

"Oh, yes, Dad."

"And you have pitied her?"

"Well, yes, father, I have," said Ronald.

"I never could make out, you know, how she could get on without you and me. I know, of course, she's with God, and she's up in a beautiful place on the side of the blue sky; but then you and I, we are always together, you see, Dad, and mother must be so lonely without us; it doesn't seem fair that two should be here and one there; that's the way I look at it, Daddy."

"Put your little hands into mine, Ronald; my brave boy need not pity mother any more; two will be there and one here, Ronald."

"Why, Daddy, what do you mean?"

The voice had grown very, very weak, and the eyes were very dim.

"Lie down by my side, Ronnie.—This is what it means, my son. You and I shall have, I firmly, I fully believe it, many another play together, many another happy hour together, but not down here. The fact is, Ronnie, that gun served me quite as badly as it served the poor partridges, and I am going to mother. There will be only one down here."

Ronald's little face had grown very white. "It's fair enough," he murmured. "I don't quite understand, but it isn't unfair. I always did know it was hard for mother.—Do you think one will be long down here by himself, Dad?"

"My son, mother and I will wait for you."

"Oh, yes, be sure you keep looking through the gates for me. I won't be a coward, Daddy; it isn't so unfair."

(To be continued.)

God in Christ, and through him, lays hold of man with a view to his salvation. If man lays hold of Christ by faith, the end will be gained, but not otherwise.

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